**Sending “I” to Do a “Me” Job: Understanding When to use “I” versus “Me”**

**Definition:**

“I” is a pronoun that must be the subject, never the object, of a verb.

“Me” is a pronoun that must be the object, never the subject. (The same is true for he/him, she/her, we/us, etc.)

“I” is a subject pronoun, so it belongs in a subject role or after a linking verb. “Me” does not perform actions; it receives actions. In other words, “me” is an object of some action or form of attention. Example: He gave the cheque to me.

Mary and me are going to the store. 🡪 INCORRECT

This sandwich belongs to Mary and I. 🡪 INCORRECT

As a simple test, try removing Mary from the sentence.

You would not say "Me is going to the store." You would say: "I am going," so say: "Mary and I are going."

You would not say: "This sandwich belongs to I, you would say "This sandwich belongs to me," so say: "This sandwich belongs to Mary and me."

**Grade Level Targeted/Rationale:**

Sometimes “me” can be seen as sounding childlike, so often “I” is assumed to be the more formal pronoun to use. In high school, students are beginning to learn what it means to write in a more formal/academic way so it is important to make sure they are using words correctly not simply because they think they are more “academic” sounding. This particular grammar rule would be something most likely covered in Elementary school. I would suggest this might be an important rule to cover in grade 9 if students seem to be making errors in their speech and/or writing.

**Activity:**

1. Give students the examples from above on the board.
2. Hand out the exercise sheet as a practice and reminder for future reference.

**Resources:**

Geraldine Woods (2010). *English Grammar for Dummies.* Indiana: Wiley Publishing Inc.

<http://www.grammarbook.com/>

**The “I” vs. “Me” grammar rule. Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Part 1 – Examine the following examples to determine the common characteristics of the grammar rule regarding “I” vs. “Me.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Correctly Used | Incorrectly Used |
| 1. You could get me and Jill to help. 2. Jake and I will go. 3. My dog Ben loves me. 4. Oh no! He broke up with me! | 1. Will you let Ben come with I? 2. Jake came over and ate with John and I. 3. You and me should go to the park. 4. If me go outside, I’ll get cold. |

List common characteristics of the properly used examples:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Part 2 – Use your list of characteristics and the examples as criteria to determine which of the following examples are correct.

1. Walk with me I need the company. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The dogs took a liking to my sister and I. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He needs to ask Ken or me. \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is between you and me, don’t tell Jake. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Everyone is going except you and I. \_\_\_\_\_

Bonus: Unscramble the letters to discover a helpful phrase.

EMDNA TYOOU MGRAATTER SMMAR GRALEA RNIM AR NGERA I DNA UOY

Y\_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / I / \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ R \_ \_ \_ \_ /

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_./G\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ /\_ \_ / Y\_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ / ME.